

No. XIV.—A 17 SCALE KRAIT (*BUNGARUS CAERULEUS*)
FROM BANGALORE.

I have just examined a very unusual specimen of the common krait. It is a juvenile example measuring 1 foot $8\frac{3}{4}$ inches. Tail $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches. In this the scale rows instead of coming to 15 at or near the neck, remain 17 (or 16) for $11\frac{3}{4}$ inches behind the snout. I have carefully studied the lepidosis and find on the left side there are 8 rows of costals below the vertebral, until a point $11\frac{1}{4}$ inches from the snout. Here the 4th and 5th rows above the ventrals fuse and become 7 to the vent. At points $3\frac{1}{2}$, $5\frac{3}{4}$, and $6\frac{3}{4}$ inches from the snout the 3rd and 4th, or 4th and 5th rows above the ventrals fuse, reducing the count to 7, but at each spot 3 scales later the 4th row subdivides to re-establish 8 rows. On the right side the costals are 8 to $11\frac{3}{4}$ inches behind the snout. At this point they become 7 by a fusion of the 4th and 5th rows above the ventrals and remain so to the vent. At points 4, $7\frac{1}{4}$ and $11\frac{1}{4}$ inches from the snout by a similar fusion the rows come to 7, but 3 scales later by a division of the 4th row, 8 costals are re-established. In this Journal (Vol. XXII, p. 402) I remarked upon two kraits from Jhelum, and Sholapur which I considered of the species *caeruleus*, and which showed a similar unusual departure from the normal. In both of these there were 17 scale rows in the entire body length. It occasionally happens that one sees an individual with a scale in the vertebral row here and there divided so as to bring the count to 17 at this particular spot. Prater has recorded such an example in this Journal recently (Vol. XXVI, p. 684). This aberration however is a very different one from that in which the costals exhibit a supernumerary row.

The specimen I have just remarked upon has the vertebrae as broad as in normal 15 scale kraits, and appears by colouration, and other features to be a *caeruleus*, and not a *sindanus*.

The arguments in favour of uniting *caeruleus* and *sindanus* under the former title, are becoming steadily more forcible.

F. WALL,

LIEUT.-COLONEL, I.M.S.

BANGALORE, 1st August 1919.

No. XV.—EARLY OCCURRENCE OF THE PAINTED LADY (*VANESSA CARDUI*, L.) IN THE DARBHANGA DISTRICT, BEHAR.

While going round my work this morning I saw a Painted Lady (*V. cardui* L.). It settled about a couple of feet in front of me, and then flew off for a short distance, settling again. I again went up to within a couple of feet of it to make sure of its identity. This species is not uncommon here from the beginning of March to the first few days of April. I have got specimens from the first of the former month up to the 4th of the latter one, but they seem commonest after the middle of March. I have not seen them here at any other time.

CHAS. M. INGLIS, M.B.O.U.

BAGHOWNIE FTY., LAHERIA SARAI,

14th October 1919.